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United Nations Forum on Forests
Seventh session
New York, 16-27 April 2007
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairperson and such other officers as may be required (see E/5975/Rev.1). According to Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000 establishing the Forum, the Bureau shall consist of a Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom shall also act as the Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

On 24 February 2006, at the first meeting of its seventh session, the Forum elected Mr. Cristian Maquieira (Chile) and Mr. Hamidon Ali (Malaysia) as members of the Bureau for the seventh session of the Forum. It postponed the election of the

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members from the African States, Eastern European States and Western European and Other States Groups to a later meeting. Since the first meeting, the secretariat of the Forum has received the following nominations for the remaining positions on the Bureau:

- Mr. André-Jules Madingou (Gabon) on behalf of the Group of African States
- Mr. Arvids Ozols (Latvia) on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States
- Mr. Hans Hoogeveen (the Netherlands) on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States

The Forum may wish to elect Mr. Hans Hoogeveen (the Netherlands) as Chairperson and Mr. Arvids Ozols and André-Jules Madingou (Gabon) as Vice-Chairpersons. The Forum may also wish to designate Mr. Cristian Maquieira (Chile) to serve as Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Forum shall, at the beginning of the session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

Documentation

Provisional annotated agenda (E/CN.18/2007/1)

3. Multi-year programme of work

By paragraph 10 of its resolution 2006/49, the Economic and Social Council decided that, following its seventh session in 2007, the Forum shall meet biennially for a period of up to two weeks on the basis of a focused multi-year programme of work to be adopted by the Forum at its seventh session. Bearing in mind that the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests will be reviewed in 2015, the Forum, at its current session, is required to formulate and adopt a multi-year programme of work that would include a description and scheduling of the tasks for the period 2008-2015.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the multi-year programme of work (E/CN.18/2007/2)

4. Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

By paragraph 26 of its resolution 2006/49, the Economic and Social Council requested the Forum to conclude and adopt, at its seventh session, a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. In order to facilitate this work it also decided, by paragraph 29 of the same resolution, that the Forum should convene an open-ended ad hoc expert group to consider the content of the non-legally binding instrument. Prior to the meeting of experts, the secretariat circulated to member States a compilation of the draft indicative elements and other proposals submitted by members during the sixth session, as well as further proposals submitted by 30 June 2006. The comments on this compilation, as requested by the Council, were also submitted to all member States.

Documentation

Note by the secretariat on the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (E/CN.18/2007/3)

Report of the open-ended ad hoc expert group on the consideration of the content of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (E/CN.18/AC.1/2006/4)

5. Multi-stakeholder dialogue

At its first session in 2001, the Forum noted the value of considering stakeholder perspectives in advancing its work. The Forum decided that multi-stakeholder dialogues, open to the nine major groups identified in Agenda 21, would be held at each session, beginning at its second session. Based on consultations with major groups on the planning of this year's multi-stakeholder dialogue, the Bureau decided that for the seventh session, under agenda item 5, a plenary discussion would be held to present both what are considered to be priority areas of action by stakeholders with respect to the multi-year programme of work as well as salient themes and perspectives on the non-legally binding instrument. The Forum will have before it a note by the secretariat and five discussion papers submitted by major groups.

Documentation

Note by the secretariat transmitting discussion papers submitted by major groups (E/CN.18/2007/4)

6. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

At its first session in 2001, the Forum decided to develop and maintain contacts, cooperate and make active efforts to develop synergies with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as other relevant international and regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments. The Forum will have before it for its consideration a report of the Secretary-General and an information document on the activities of the Collaborative Partnership, entitled "Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2007".

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination (E/CN.18/2007/5)

Informational document: Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2007 (E/CN.18/2007/6)

7. Dates and venue for the eighth session of the Forum

The Forum shall decide upon the dates and venue for the eighth session.

8. Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Forum

The Forum shall recommend to the Economic and Social Council for adoption a provisional agenda for the eighth session.

9. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its seventh session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Forum shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its session.

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United Nations Forum on Forests
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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

Multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is intended to facilitate the development of the new multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding international instrument on all types of forests to be adopted at the current session of the Forum.

Council resolution 2006/49 strengthened the international arrangement on forests with a number of new elements, including the four shared global objectives on forests and the decision to adopt a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. The scope of the international arrangement on forests was broadened with the addition of three principal functions, to reflect the critical role of forests in the realization of internationally agreed development goals.

The multi-year programme of work of the Forum should reflect the overall purpose, functions and strategy of the international arrangement on forests. Accordingly, the new multi-year programme of work will include a description and scheduling of key tasks that it will undertake during the period 2007-2015, including policy issues for deliberation at each session and activities in intersessional periods. With its adoption, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests will become the integral part of the multi-year programme of work. The report proposes a framework and suggested contents of the multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015.

* E/CN.18/2007/1.

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, operates under a multi-year programme of work. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, which established the Forum in 2000, the Forum adopted its multi-year programme of work for the period 2001-2005.[1] Subsequently, in resolution 2006/49[2] the Economic and Social Council decided that following the seventh session of the Forum in 2007, the Forum would meet biennially for a period of up to two weeks on the basis of a focused multi-year programme of work to be adopted by the Forum at its seventh session. Furthermore, in the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council decided that the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests would be reviewed in 2015.

2. Thus, the Forum, at its seventh session, is expected to adopt its multi-year programme of work, which would include a description and scheduling of the tasks that the Forum will undertake for the period 2007-2015, taking into account the relevant provisions of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49 and other relevant developments.

3. It should be noted that at its seventh session the Forum will conclude its deliberations and adopt a non-legally binding instrument for all types of forests that contains a clear reference to the multi-year programme of work for 2007-2015. It is, therefore, strongly suggested that the present report be read in close conjunction with the note on the non-legally binding instrument (E/CN.18/2007/3).

4. The report is intended to facilitate the deliberations of the Forum by providing relevant background information and a suggested framework for the multi-year programme of work for 2007-2015.

II. Considerations for the multi-year programme of work for 2007-2015

5. In the development of the multi-year programme of work for 2007-2015 for the consideration of the Forum, the overall purpose, functions and strategy of the international arrangement on forests have been clearly reflected. The programme of work also builds on the previous multi-year programme of work 2001-2005, recalling in particular paragraph 4 (g) of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, in which it is stated that the multi-year programme of work of the Forum will draw on the elements reflected in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[3] the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests,[4]

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[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 22* (E/2001/42/Rev.1, para. 26).

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 22* (E/2006/42, paras. 10 and 32).

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex III.

chapter 11 of Agenda 21[5] and the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF).

6. It will be recalled that in the multi-year programme of work for 2001-2005, the Forum at each session addressed the six principal functions of the international arrangement on forests, as stipulated in Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35. In this regard, the Economic and Social Council, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 2006/49, agreed that the international arrangement on forests would perform the following additional principal functions for achievement of its main objective (such functions would therefore have to be reflected in the programming of the multi-year programme of work for 2007-2015):

(a) Enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to the implementation of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[6] bearing in mind the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;[7]

(b) Encourage and assist countries, including those with low forest cover, to develop and implement forest conservation and rehabilitation strategies, increase the area of forests under sustainable management and reduce forest degradation and the loss of forest cover in order to maintain and improve their forest resources with a view to enhancing the benefits of forests to meet present and future needs, in particular the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities whose livelihoods depend on forests;

(c) Strengthen interaction between the United Nations Forum on Forests and relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes, with the participation of major groups, as identified in Agenda 21[3] and relevant stakeholders to facilitate enhanced cooperation and effective implementation of sustainable forest management, as well as to contribute to the work of the Forum.

7. The first new principal function is a commitment to the broader global development agenda to which the Forum is expected to contribute through its work and which has been incorporated into the purpose of the draft text of the non-legally binding instrument. The other two new principal functions are geared more towards technical and institutional approaches to more effectively promote sustainable forest management at national, subregional and regional levels.

8. Furthermore, the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 2006/49, also decided, with a view to achieving the main objective of the international arrangement on forests, to set the following shared global objectives on forests, and agreed to work globally and nationally to achieve those objectives by 2015.

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[5] Ibid., annex II.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, and resolution 2, annex.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Global objectives on forests

Global objective 1

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

Global objective 2

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people;

Global objective 3

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

Global objective 4

Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

9. The decision to work at the global and national levels to achieve the shared global objectives on forests by 2015 is a clear reaffirmation of the commitment to the international arrangement on forests. It is important to underline that the global objectives on forests were negotiated during the fifth session of the Forum and adopted at its sixth session, in the context of the deliberations on the need for a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. Consequently, there is a general consensus among Member States on the need to reaffirm the global objectives on forests as a fundamental part of the instrument. Accordingly, the multi-year programme of work needs to be directed towards the achievement of those global objectives on forests.

Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

10. Consequent to the decision to develop a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, programming of this new element must be included in the multi-year programme of work, whose scope and frequency of review are to be determined. Upon consideration of the scope of the instrument, which is envisaged to be adopted at the seventh session of the Forum, it should be borne in mind that the instrument will be inextricably linked to the work of the Forum, which will serve as the governing body of the instrument, and it is expected to provide the policy and conceptual framework for focused international cooperation and national measures towards achieving sustainable forest management and the global objectives on forests.

11. The outcome of the open-ended ad hoc expert group meeting, held in New York from 11 to 15 December 2006, on the possible content of the instrument, suggests that the instrument will be the key vehicle for translating policies developed by the Forum into action. The ad hoc expert group indicated its general support for the Forum to be given the role of governing body for oversight of the

implementation of the instrument. The Forum secretariat might also act as the secretariat of the instrument and manage any trust fund designated for it. However, the exact relationship between the instrument and the Forum, and thus its multi-year programme of work, will be clear only upon adoption of the instrument, when its scope and working modalities will be determined.

Change in working modality of the Forum

12. The decision of the Forum to meet biennially after its seventh session would entail certain adjustments to the institutional and operational aspects of its work programme. It would be important to consider carefully how the Forum organizes its work programme in the light of the biennial sessions and the expanded principal functions of the international arrangement on forests, which further strengthened the role of the Forum on the global forest policy process.

13. Following its seventh session, the Forum will be meeting at biennial sessions in 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015. The Forum session in 2015 will be devoted essentially to a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, including a full range of options, pursuant to paragraph 32 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49. Only the three sessions in 2009, 2011 and 2013 will provide opportunities to deliberate on the substantive issues under the principal functions of the international arrangement on forests. This temporal/logistic aspect should be considered in the design of its multi-year programme of work. With the biennial cycle of its sessions, it would follow that the Bureau of a session will have a two-year term of office, of which the office bearers must be made aware.

Regional involvement

14. The Economic and Social Council emphasized in its resolution 2006/49, inter alia, the need to strengthen interaction between the Forum and the regional forest-related entities, including focused inputs from regions to the Forum, which adds an important dimension to the work of the Forum, and reflects the repeated emphasis placed by Member States to bring global policy dialogue closer to actual implementation on the ground. The strengthening of the global-regional interface is expected to enhance the feedback of policy development, country-level implementation and lessons learned through a critical link that regional and subregional entities can provide. The regional element would also provide a platform for countries and other players in the region to coordinate and collaborate in the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument and to follow-up the outcomes of the global sessions, as well as in highlighting regional priorities and concerns.

15. At past sessions, the Forum has promoted the regional dimension by holding special events, such as panel discussions on specific regions, to learn regional perspectives and experiences. With the decision to strengthen regional involvement, what is needed now is a more dedicated effort to increase awareness, engagement and contributions from various regional actors to the Forum at its sessions.

16. Relevant regional organizations and processes include regional commissions of the United Nations, the regional forestry commissions of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the regional ministerial meetings on the environment of the United Nations Environment Programme, the

Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe process, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the Central American Convention on Forests, the African Timber Organization, the Committee on Forests and Woodlands of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the Conférence des Ministres en Charge des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Tehran Process, the Asia Forest Partnership, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, the regional development banks, the regional criteria and indicators processes and the regional forest law enforcement and governance processes, among others.

Strengthened political commitment and enhanced cooperation

17. The multi-year programme of work for 2001-2005 had as key components high-level ministerial segments, dialogues with heads of international organizations, including the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, and multi-stakeholder dialogues. The high-level segment was aimed at strengthening political commitment to sustainable forest management, and enhanced cooperation, policy and programme coordination and inter-agency collaboration to advance the main objective of the international arrangement on forests.

18. The role of members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in facilitating policy implementation has been important and recognized in various resolutions and decisions of the Forum. Multi-stakeholder dialogues have provided an important vehicle to promote stakeholder engagement in policy debate. Participation of major groups has also enriched the deliberations with useful and important civil society perspectives on the assessment of overall progress. It was decided in paragraph 12 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49 that the Forum would seek to strengthen interaction with major groups and other stakeholders in meetings of the Forum. The aforementioned activities could usefully continue to be included in the multi-year programme of work. The resolutions also recognized the positive contributions of the country-led initiatives to the work of the Forum, and encouraged interested Governments to organize such initiatives on topical issues of the multi-year programme of work.

19. Ad hoc expert groups that were convened under the previous multi-year programme of work have effectively assisted the work of the Forum, particularly in providing scientific and technical advice on key issues. Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49 emphasized, inter alia, that ad hoc expert groups could be convened to address issues identified in the multi-year programme of work. It would be necessary, therefore, to identify the topics and scope of such ad hoc expert groups in the programming of the new multi-year programme of work.

Economic and Social Council and the broader development agenda

20. By its resolution 61/16, on strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly emphasized the enhanced implementation of actions towards the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the coordinated contribution to the Economic and Social Council from its subsidiary bodies on its assessment of the progress. Of direct concern to the Forum are the two new functions of the Economic and Social Council, *viz.*, the annual ministerial reviews of the United Nations development

agenda and the biennial Development Cooperation Forum on the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

21. The Forum is required to provide contributions to the Economic and Social Council for its annual ministerial review and biennial Development Cooperation Forum. This offers a critical opportunity to the Forum to integrate its work more effectively with the broader development agenda, which is also one of the new principal functions of the international arrangement on forests, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49. In 2015, the General Assembly will review the achievement of the development goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals. Coincidentally, in 2015 the Forum will undertake a review of the international arrangement on forests and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, and thus it will have an opportunity to highlight its contributions to the broader development goals. In this connection, it would be critical for the Forum to develop a strategy and establish appropriate channels to provide meaningful contributions to the Economic and Social Council for the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum. Developing synergy and mainstreaming its work with that of the Economic and Social Council on activities related to the broader development goals must be included in the multi-year programme of work. This could only further strengthen the role of the Forum as an important body of the Economic and Social Council.

International Year of Forests 2011

22. Underscoring the significance of forests to global sustainable development and to ameliorate climatic and other environmental stresses faced by planet Earth, the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/193, declared 2011 the International Year of Forests, and requested the Forum secretariat to act as the focal point for the successful implementation of the International Year of Forests. Activities organized as part of the International Year will focus on raising awareness and promoting global action to sustainably manage, conserve and develop all types of forests, including trees outside of forests. This important endeavour will require careful planning and programming, and should be incorporated into the design of the multi-year programme of work.

Lessons learned from the previous multi-year programme of work 2001-2005

23. The multi-year programme of work for 2001-2005 was the result of intensive deliberations to chart the work of the Forum immediately after its establishment as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council. It was adopted at the first session of the Forum, in February 2001, and essentially consisted of: (a) an assessment of progress in the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action; (b) a recurring theme of means of implementation (finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and capacity-building); (c) a number of recurring common items; (d) periodic high-level segments and dialogue with the heads of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; (e) multi-stakeholder dialogue; and (f) review of progress and future actions, review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework.

24. However, although the multi-year programme of work for 2001-2005 comprehensively covered the issues set for a particular session of the Forum, it also resulted in inflexibility in the course of deliberations. The deliberations had to focus mainly on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, and there was a constant undercurrent of a politically sensitive issue related to the consideration of the possible parameters of a legal framework at the fifth session of the Forum.

25. The overburdening agenda of the Forum sessions under the previous multi-year programme of work made it difficult to address new and emerging issues. It also limited the ways in which the Forum could effectively address annual themes of the Economic and Social Council and other pressing broader development issues.

26. Concerns were raised on the lack of or only nominal deliberations on critical issues such as means of implementation; for example, finance and common items such as trade, national forest programmes and enabling environment.

27. It may be perceived that the Forum in its deliberations has been preoccupied with negotiations on the text of resolutions and that insufficient attention has been paid to facilitating implementation and assessment of sustainable forest management at the ground level. Despite the attention to the resolutions, there was no mechanism to follow up on the resolutions. An unintended consequence was insufficient oversight of the principal functions of the international arrangement on forests and its objectives. With the conclusion of the negotiation of the non-legally binding international instrument on all types of forests, which will serve as the principal vehicle for implementing sustainable forest management, the Forum will turn its focus to assessing and improving implementation.

28. The above-mentioned may be usefully taken into consideration when designing ways to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the work of the Forum. For instance, the high-level ministerial segment could be made more influential in its role of expressing political commitment and showcasing concrete actions, and the multi-stakeholder dialogues could be further broadened in scope to provide opportunities for a meaningful engagement in policy development and implementation feedback.

29. The full potential of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests has yet to be harnessed. While the Partnership has proved itself to be an innovative inter-agency collaborative mechanism to support the work of the Forum and enhance cooperation among its members, its potential in the provision of assistance to Member States in promoting sustainable forest management should be further realized.

30. In view of the above, the Forum may wish to consider the following elements in the design of the multi-year programme of work for 2007-2015:

(a) A focus on implementation;

(b) Clarity regarding expected outputs;

(c) Influence and decisiveness on issues being addressed;

(d) Practicality and flexibility in the aims and objectives;

(e) Adaptability to changing needs.

Multi-year programmes of work of other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council

31. All functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council operate under multi-year programmes of work, with a wide variation in scope and detail. In response to General Assembly resolution 57/270 B, which, inter alia, requested functional commissions to examine their methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, several functional commissions have reviewed their working methods in recent years.

32. Following is a summary of characteristics and trends in the multi-year programme of work of functional commissions and subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council:

(a) A number of functional commissions and subsidiary bodies[8] have adopted a two-year cycle model with implementation review and policy sessions held during intervening years. Generally, a Chairman's summary is produced during the implementation review session and a negotiated text, such as a resolution, is produced at the policy session;

(b) During a cycle, therefore at the implementation review and policy sessions, there is a focus on one or a limited number of priority themes;

(c) The Commission on Sustainable Development holds an intergovernmental preparatory meeting (five days) during the policy session;

(d) The Commission on the Status of Women focuses, at each session, on a priority theme and on an evaluation of progress in the implementation of the recommended actions of the preceding session. The Commission organizes panel events for preliminary discussions on the priority theme for the next Commission session, and its Bureau decides on an emerging issue for consideration at the next session;

(e) Most bodies meet annually, with the session duration ranging from four to ten days;

(f) Several commissions hold panel discussions with the United Nations regional commissions as part of their sessions. The Commission on Sustainable Development holds regional implementation meetings in collaboration with the regional commissions, prior to its review session.

Emerging priority issues

33. Effective ways to conduct policy deliberations on relevant emerging priority issues should be factored into the design of the multi-year programme of work for 2007-2015. The Forum may be more dynamic and relevant in addressing emerging priority issues, such as the Asian tsunami of 2004 and the impact on coastal forests and habitations, with necessary flexibility built into the multi-year programme of work.

[8] For example, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Social Development, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

34. A number of issues have emerged in the past few years that merit attention, inter alia, forest governance, including combating illegal activities in forests and associated international trade; forests and conflict; forests and genetically modified trees; forests and water; forests and climate change; forests and energy; urban and community forests; forest tenure issues; and new trends in certification. The reports of the Secretary-General prepared for the third and fourth sessions of the Forum highlighted a number of other emerging issues that have not been properly addressed.

III. Proposed multi-year programme of work

35. With the inclusion of the global objectives on forests and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, the Forum has broadened the scope of the principal functions of the international arrangement on forests. Consequently, there will be an increase in associated activities and resources requirements.

36. Table 1 below provides suggested elements of a multi-year programme of work for consideration. Additionally, annex I provides a schematic overview of the key components of the international arrangement on forests, including the main objectives of the arrangement, four global objectives on forests, and nine principal functions, based on Economic and Social Council resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49. Annex II provides the basic architecture of the proposed multi-year programme of work.

Global objectives as the basis

37. The four global objectives on forests agreed upon at the sixth session of the Forum and adopted by the Council in its resolution 2006/49 are significant milestones in the international commitment on sustainable forest management. Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49 reaffirmed that the main objective of the international arrangement on forests was to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to that end,[9] and that the four shared global objectives were intended to help achieve this main aim and to contribute to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability. Member States have agreed to work at global and national levels to make progress towards the achievement of these global objectives by 2015 through the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument.

38. In assessing progress in implementing the main objective of the international arrangement on forests, it is necessary to take into account the above four global objectives on forests, including the contribution of forests to the internationally agreed development goals. Because of the centrality of global objectives, the new multi-year programme of work should be based primarily on these objectives. Related to this central focus is the need to incorporate all nine principal functions of the international arrangement on forests into its multi-year programme of work.

39. The seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management provide a well-established reference framework for the articulation and the monitoring, assessment

[9] Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, para. 1.

and reporting of sustainable forest management. The global objectives on forests, in their own right, as the overall policy engine, serve to carry the seven thematic elements towards the achievement of our ultimate goal of sustainable forest management.

Session themes

40. In accordance with Council resolution 2006/49, each session of the Forum should have a specific thematic focus. It is proposed that these themes be based on the global objectives on forests. At each Forum session, one of the first three global objectives could be considered in depth. Global objective 4, which relates to reversing the decline in official development assistance and mobilizing significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management, may be considered at each session. The session in 2015 will be devoted to the review of the international arrangement on forests and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests.

41. The implementation of the non-legally binding international instrument on all types of forests is expected to feature prominently in the sessions of the Forum. To this end, a review of progress on the substantive, institutional and financial aspects of the instrument should be considered. This would be particularly relevant in the event that a global financial mechanism is established to support the implementation of the instrument. In this context, relevant substantive issues of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, upon conclusion, should be taken into consideration in the multi-year programme of work.

42. On this basis, the substantive themes and their potential topics for the sessions could be broadly identified as follows:

Eighth session (2009): "Forests for development"

(a) Climate change and forests, particularly mitigation by reversing deforestation;

(b) Rehabilitation and restoration of the world's forests;

(c) Energy and forests;

(d) Water and forests;

(e) Financial resources.

Ninth session (2011): "Forests for people and livelihoods"

(a) Forest governance;

(b) Forests for peacebuilding and in conflict resolution;

(c) Urban and community-based forest management;

(d) Awareness-building (International Year of Forests 2011) and education;

(e) Payment for environmental services;

(f) Mid-term review.

Tenth session (2013): "Forests for growth"

(a) Forest products processing, non-timber forest products;

(b) Trade, investment, employment and labour;

(c) Forest tenure;

(d) Nature-based tourism and environmental services.

Eleventh session (2015): review

(a) Review of the achievement of global objectives on forests;

(b) Review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(c) Review of the contribution of forests to internationally agreed development goals;

(d) Consideration of options for the future.

Intersessional period

Intergovernmental expert meetings

43. There is much scope and legitimate need to efficiently utilize the periods between the biennial sessions of the Forum, as there are only three sessions to effectively address substantive issues and challenges and then take far-reaching decisions on future options in 2015. No opportunity should be missed and no time lost in mobilizing resources, engaging actors and stakeholders, and in keeping the momentum going.

44. Given these challenges, it is strongly proposed that one intergovernmental expert meeting be convened each year the Forum sessions are not held. The main purpose of these intergovernmental expert meetings would be the following:

(a) To review the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(b) To provide an interface for interregional dialogue and inputs from the regional organizations, processes and stakeholders;

(c) To engage the representatives of the member States in preliminary discussions on the thematic issues of the following session of the Forum;

(d) To provide inputs to the Economic and Social Council annual ministerial review in the years when sessions of the Forum are not convened.

45. Under the theme "Review of the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests", the intergovernmental expert meeting would: (a) review the status of implementation at all levels; (b) consider ways and means to facilitate implementation and exchange views on further actions; and (c) provide inputs to sessions of the Forum.

46. In order to strengthen regional involvement in the global Forum process, it is essential to incorporate regional segments in the most effective manner. The proposed expert meeting would: (a) provide a much needed common platform for interregional dialogue and interface to regional and subregional forest-relevant entities to share regional experiences and challenges on sustainable forest management; (b) review common strategies and joint initiatives, partnerships and other approaches; and (c) provide consolidated input to the sessions of the Forum.

Such an expert meeting would provide an opportunity for focused dialogues on regional issues involving all regional partners and to share lessons learned and case studies from countries of the regions, as well as provide a mechanism to receive inputs from and provide policy feedback to participating regional bodies and processes.

47. The proposed intergovernmental expert meeting would be instrumental in advancing preliminary discussions on the thematic issues of the next session of the Forum. Such preliminary discussions would: (a) raise awareness of the issues for policy deliberations; and (b) provide more substantial and coherent input to the session of the Forum.

48. An intergovernmental expert meeting would provide a mechanism for contributing to the Economic and Social Council annual ministerial reviews in the years when sessions of the Forum are not held. It should be borne in mind that, owing to the biennial nature of the Forum session, without its intersessional intergovernmental meeting, the Forum would not be able to provide input to the annual ministerial review. It is crucial that the Forum stay engaged in the Council's new activities and provide its constructive inputs related to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals.

Ad hoc expert groups and/or task forces

49. As a dynamic global policy body, the Forum would need to stay on the cutting edge on all relevant matters, thus requiring in-depth scientific and technical support on specific topics. Such support can be provided through ad hoc expert groups, task forces and other similar subsidiary bodies.

50. Ad hoc expert groups and task forces could help sort and streamline the work of the Forum, by promoting the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. Following are some areas that may require consideration by expert groups:

(a) Development of a global funding mechanism for sustainable forest management;

(b) Approaches to strengthen regional-global interface on forests;

(c) Indicators for global objectives on forests;

(d) Clustering and synthesis of the IPF and IFF proposals for action and resolutions of the Forum according to the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management.

Country-led initiatives

51. Country-led initiatives on specific issues have proved to be invaluable input to the work of the Forum at past sessions. The Forum, through its new multi-year programme of work, should continue to encourage such initiatives focused on specific thematic and/or emerging and priority issues of the Forum.

Monitoring, assessment and reporting

52. Monitoring, assessment and reporting features as an important element of the Forum, and the non-legally binding international instrument for sustainable forest

management under development constitutes a particularly important function of the Forum. Monitoring, assessment and reporting has a central role in the multi-year programme of work for a number of reasons, including:

(a) To assess progress in the implementation of the instrument and progress towards the achievement of sustainable forest management and the four global objectives on forests;

(b) To assess progress in achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) To compile the information provided by countries on a voluntary basis on progress made in implementing national measures towards achieving the four global objectives on forests;

(d) To consolidate the reports provided by members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on initiatives and activities undertaken in support of the work of the Forum and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument;

(e) To review the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and the non-legally binding instrument in 2015.

53. In order to measure progress in the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument and in achieving the global objectives on forests, it is necessary to compile consolidated reports on a periodic basis. To minimize the reporting burden on countries, and allow for a reasonable period between reports, preparation of consolidated global reports could be set for 2011 and 2015. This would build on the regular FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments, which capture the situation within countries. Further reports on sustainable forest management are expected to be provided by the criteria and indicators processes. The basis of these two sets of reporting are the following seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management:

(a) Extent of forest resources;

(b) Forest biological diversity;

(c) Forest health and vitality;

(d) Productive functions of forest resources;

(e) Protective functions of forest resources;

(f) Socio-economic functions of forests;

(g) Legal, policy and institutional framework.

54. Depending upon the requirement of the new non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, upon its adoption, it may be necessary to clearly identify the type of information sought and the frequency of country reporting needed, while minimizing the reporting burden on countries. This is an issue that could be addressed through an ad hoc expert group.

Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination

55. The Forum would need to continue and further enhance its cooperation and coordination function with all relevant organizations, institutions and instruments in regard to the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and previously agreed forest policy actions and programmes. Important

among these are the follow-up decisions by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests members of the Forum, providing guidance and receiving periodic inputs from the Partnership. The existing practice of annual reports by the Partnership and periodic dialogue between ministers responsible for forests and heads of Partnership member organizations have provided useful feedback to the Forum. To maintain momentum and mobilize greater cooperation and coordination, the Forum may wish to consider inviting and involving the Chairs of the governing councils of the member organizations of the Partnership more closely in Forum sessions. This would also facilitate the delivery of consistent messages from member States of different Partnership member organizations with regard to forests and the Forum.

56. Other related issues include:

(a) Making high-level segments more interesting: it would be necessary to schedule high-level segments at the ninth session in 2011, which will coincide with the International Year of Forests, and at the eleventh session in 2015;

(b) Developing a mechanism to provide timely and focused inputs to the Economic and Social Council and other relevant bodies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development at its 2012-2013 cycle;

(c) Developing more coherent policies and programmes with partners, including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, at global and regional levels.

Stakeholder engagement

57. The continued working relationship with and contributions by major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, to the work of the Forum, in particular through the multi-stakeholder dialogues, have been highly appreciated by member States. This practice needs to be continued, and new approaches are needed to further enhance stakeholder engagement in policy deliberations and implementation at global, regional and national levels. Council resolution 2006/49 specifically invites the participation of major groups at regional processes and Forum sessions and in the non-legally binding instrument. Broadening the involvement of grassroots-level major groups organizations at regional and national levels would help further the achievement of the global objectives on forests.

58. At the same time, increasing communications with the public in general on forest-related issues would help to raise awareness and foster knowledge exchange.

International Year of Forests, 2011

59. The Forum secretariat has been tasked by the General Assembly to serve as the focal point for the implementation of the International Year of Forests, 2011, and the new multi-year programme of work needs to incorporate this important new responsibility entrusted to the Forum and its secretariat. The International Year of Forests, 2011 presents a significant opportunity to raise awareness on the importance of sustainable forest management and to address the critical links between forest issues and the global environment, public safety and overall sustainability. A well-planned and coordinated campaign on the Year would serve as a call to action to the global community to work together with member States, relevant forest-related organizations and major groups in support of sustainable forest management efforts worldwide. Thus, the multi-year programme of work should have a clear provision for this important task.

Cross-cutting and enabling issues

60. The multi-year programme of work needs to appropriately and effectively address a wide range of cross-cutting and enabling issues at its sessions and during the intersessional activities. Most notably, such issues may include the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, capacity-building, research and development, international trade-related issues, South-South and triangular cooperation, and clearinghouse mechanisms.

Review in 2015

61. The Forum should devote the whole eleventh session in 2015 to review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and the non-legally binding instrument, and, on that basis, should consider a full range of options as referred to in paragraph 32 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49.

IV. Conclusions

62. The Forum is at a critical juncture in charting a way forward to translate into action the vision and expectations of the international community by enhanced promotion of sustainable forest management and by contributing significantly to the broader development agenda.

63. Council resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49 and General Assembly resolution 61/163, on commemorating 2011 as the International Year of Forests, provide reference frameworks for the development of the multi-year programme of work.

V. Proposed decision

64. The Forum may wish to decide on the multi-year programme of work as presented in table 1.

Table 1

Schedule for multi-year programme of work

Budget cycle	*Biennium 2008-09*		*Biennium 2010-11*		*Biennium 2012-13*		*Biennium 2014-15*	
Themes → *Category*	*Forests for development (Global objectives 1 and 4)*		*Forests for people and livelihoods (Global objectives 2 and 4)*		*Forests for growth (Global objectives 3 and 4)*		*Review on progress Consideration of future actions*	
Sessions/between the sessions	Intergovernmental expert meeting 1 (IGEM-1)	Eighth session	Intergovernmental expert meeting 2 (IGEM-2)	Ninth session	Intergovernmental expert meeting 3 (IGEM-3)	Tenth session	Intergovernmental expert meeting 4 (IGEM-4)	Eleventh session
Year (location)	2008 (Bangkok ESCAP)	2009 (New York UNHQ)	2010 (Addis Ababa ECA)	2011 (New York UNHQ)	2012 (Geneva ECE)	2013 (New York UNHQ)	2014 (Santiago ECLAC)	2015 (New York UNHQ)
ECOSOC matters: AMR and DCF	Input to ECOSOC	Input to ECOSOC	Input to ECOSOC	Input to ECOSOC	Input to ECOSOC	Input to ECOSOC	Input to ECOSOC	Input to ECOSOC
Emerging and priority issues	Regional dialogues and input	1. Climate change and forests 2. Energy and forests 3. Water and forests	Input to IYF 2011 Regional dialogues and input	1. Forest governance 2. Forests and conflict resolution 3. Awareness-building	Input to CSD (2012-2013 cycle) Regional dialogues and input	1. Forest ownership 2. Land-use 3. Forest employment	Regional dialogues and input	
Cross-cutting issues		Trade, TEST, capacity-building		Trade, TEST, capacity-building		Trade, TEST, capacity-building		
Non-legally binding instrument	Implementation and review	Review	Implementation and review	Review	Implementation and review	Review	Implementation and review	Review
High-level segment				HLS — message to ECOSOC and CSD (2012-13)				High-level segment
Enhanced cooperation, policy/programme coordination	Regional dialogues and input	Invitation to Chairs of governing bodies of the CPF members to address and inform the Forum Cross-sectoral coordination with energy and water sectors Guidance to CPF	Regional dialogues and input	Invitation to Chairs of governing bodies of the CPF members to address and inform the Forum Cross-sectoral coordination with governance-related sectors Guidance to CPF	Regional dialogues and input	Invitation to Chairs of governing bodies of the CPF members to address and inform the Forum Cross-sectoral coordination with agriculture sector Guidance to CPF Input to CSD (2012-2013 cycle)		

Budget cycle	*Biennium 2008-09*		*Biennium 2010-11*		*Biennium 2012-13*		*Biennium 2014-15*	
Themes / *Category*	*Forests for development (Global objectives 1 and 4)*		*Forests for people and livelihoods (Global objectives 2 and 4)*		*Forests for growth (Global objectives 3 and 4)*		*Review on progress Consideration of future actions*	
Monitoring, assessment and reporting		Country reports		Mid-term review Country reports		Country reports		Country reports
Stakeholder engagement	Major groups coordination	Multi-stakeholder dialogue	Major groups coordination	Multi-stakeholder dialogue	Major groups coordination	Multi-stakeholder dialogue	Major groups coordination	Multi-stakeholder dialogue
International Year of Forests (2011)	Preparations for IYF 2011	Preparations for IYF 2011	Preparations for IYF 2011	Launch of IYF 2011		Assessment of IYF outcome		

Note: The following abbreviations have been used to save space and to fit information in the table:

AMR	annual ministerial review
CPF	Collaborative Partnerships on Forests
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
DCF	Development Cooperation Forum
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
HLS	high-level segment
IYF	International Year of Forests, 2011
TEST	transfer of environmentally sound technologies
UNHQ	United Nations Headquarters

Annex I

Scheme of the international arrangement on forests

Main objective and purpose of the United Nations Forum on Forests, supported by CPF — ECOSOC resolution 2000/35

The main objective of the international arrangement on forests is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end. The purpose of such an international arrangement is to promote the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests, at the national, regional and global levels, to provide a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy implementation, coordination and development, and to carry out principal functions, based on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, ... the ["Forest Principles"], chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the IPF/IFF process, in a manner consistent with and complementary to existing international legally binding instruments relevant to forests.

Global objectives on forests (2015) — ECOSOC resolution 2006/49

1.	2.	3.	4.
Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.	Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people.	Increase significantly the areas of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, and increase the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.	Reverse the decline in official development assistance for SFM and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

Principal functions of the United Nations Forum on Forests, supported by CPF — ECOSOC resolution 2000/35 and ECOSOC resolution 2006/49

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
Facilitate and promote implementation of the IPF/IFF PfAs* as well as other actions ..., including through nfp and other integrated programmes ...	Provide a forum for continued policy dialogue among Governments ..., to foster common understanding on SFM and to address forest-related issues and emerging areas of priority concern in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner ...	Enhance cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant international and regional ... *[entities]** ..., as well as contribute to synergies among them, including coordination among donors;	Foster international cooperation, including North-South and public-private partnerships, as well as cross-sectoral cooperation at the national, regional and global levels;	Monitor and assess progress at the national, regional and global levels through reporting by Governments, as well as by international and regional ... *[entities]** ... and on this basis consider future actions needed;	Strengthen political commitment to SFM ... through ministerial engagement, the development of ways to liaise with governing bodies of international and regional ... *[entities]** ..., and the promotion of action-oriented dialogue and policy formulation related to forests;	Enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals ...	Encourage and assist countries, ... to develop and implement forest conservation and rehabilitation strategies, increase the area of forests under sustainable management, and reduce forest degradation and the loss of forest cover, in order to maintain and improve their forest resources ...	Strengthen interaction between the Forum and relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes, with participation of major groups, ... and relevant stakeholders to facilitate enhanced cooperation and effective implementation of SFM, as well as to contribute to the work of the Forum.

**Note*: The following abbreviations have been used to save space and to fit information in the table:
CPF = Collaborative Partnerships on Forests
ECOSOC = Economic and Social Council
*[entities]** = "organizations, institutions and instruments"
["Forest Principles"] = the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests
IPF/IFF = The Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/The Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
nfp = national forest programmes
PfAs = Proposals for Actions
SFM = sustainable forest management

Annex II

Basic architecture of the proposed United Nations Forum on Forests multi-year programme of work

Sessions

Eighth (2009), ninth (2011) and tenth (2013)

Scope

- Theme-specific sessions[a]
- Enhanced cooperation, coordination, guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)
- Review of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests implementation
- Emerging issues
- Monitoring, assessment and reporting — country reports, etc.
- Inputs from intergovernmental expert meetings
- Inputs from other intersessional activities/ initiatives
- High-level segment (in 2011 and 2015)
- Inputs to the Economic and Social Council annual ministerial reviews and the Development Cooperation Forums
- Multi-stakeholder dialogues
- Input to the Economic and Social Council, annual ministerial reviews and Development Cooperation Forum
- International Year of Forests (IYF) 2011
  - Preparations (2009)
  - Launching (2011)
  - Assessment (2013)

Duration and venues

1. Two weeks
2. United Nations Headquarters (New York/ Geneva)

Expected outputs

1. Negotiated text
   (a) Policy development and guidance
   (b) Inputs to annual ministerial reviews and Development Cooperation Forum
   (c) Input to Commission on Sustainable Development (2012-13)
2. Chairman's text
   (a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue

Intersessionals

Intergovernmental expert meetings (IGEMs) in 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014

Purpose

1. Implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests
2. Interregional dialogue and global-regional interface
3. Preliminary discussions on themes of upcoming regular sessions
4. Inputs to Economic and Social Council annual ministerial reviews on the years when Forum regular sessions are not held

Duration and venues

1. Seven days
2. Regional commissions headquarters

Expected outputs

1. Chairman's summary for items 1, 2 and 3 above
2. Negotiated text for item 4 above (for annual ministerial reviews)

Sessions	*Intersessionals*
Eleventh (2015) ☐ Review ☐ Consideration of future action (review all options, including a legally binding instrument) ☐ High-level segment ☐ Input to Economic and Social Council annual ministerial reviews and Development Cooperation Forum	**Other intersessional activities (as per need)** ☐ Ad hoc expert groups ☐ Country-led initiatives ☐ Self-organizing regional and subregional meetings ☐ Major groups consultations

[a] See table 1 for themes and other details.

United Nations E/CN.18/2007/3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
13 February 2007

Original: English

United Nations Forum on Forests
Seventh session
New York, 16-27 April 2007
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

Revised composite draft text for developing a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

In its resolution 2006/49, on the outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Economic and Social Council called for the conclusion and adoption of a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests at the seventh session of the Forum. Based on an analysis of proposals and comments provided by member States and regional groups on possible elements to be included in the instrument, as well as consultations with the Bureau of the seventh session, the secretariat of the Forum prepared a composite draft text for a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests as a background paper to facilitate the work of the open-ended ad hoc expert group on the consideration of the content of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests which met in New York from 11 to 15 December 2006. Following very positive and constructive discussions, the ad hoc expert group requested the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to prepare a revised draft composite text, taking into account the views provided by the experts, for the consideration of the Forum at its seventh session. The revised draft composite text appears as the annex to the present note.

* E/CN.18/2007/1.

07-23739 (E) 010307

1. In its resolution 2006/49, on the outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Economic and Social Council called for the conclusion and adoption of a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests at the seventh session of the Forum. Member States were requested to provide proposals on possible elements to be included in the instrument. During and after the sixth session, 18 proposals were submitted to the secretariat of the Forum by countries and regional groups, in addition to proposals by two major groups. As also called for by the resolution, seven member States submitted comments to the secretariat on the compilation of those proposals. Together, the proposals and comments represented the views of 97 countries.

2. The proposals and comments were analysed and elements for possible inclusion identified in the note by the Secretariat on developing a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (E/CN.18/AC.1/2006/2), which was prepared to facilitate the work of the meeting of the open-ended ad hoc expert group on the consideration of the content of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, held in New York from 11 to 15 December 2006. Based on that analysis, and in consultation with the Bureau of the seventh session of the Forum, the secretariat prepared a composite draft text for a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests as a background paper to assist the ad hoc expert group in its deliberations. Following the proposal of the Bureau, the ad hoc expert group agreed to base its deliberations on the composite draft text. The results of those discussions are contained in the report of the ad hoc expert group (E/CN.18/AC.1/2006/4).

3. Following very positive and constructive discussions, the ad hoc expert group requested the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to prepare a revised draft composite text, taking into account the views provided by the experts, for the consideration of the Forum at its seventh session. Careful attention was given to the structure of the instrument based on the proposals provided by experts. The revised draft composite text has been included as the annex to the present note.

4. In considering the revised composite draft text, member States are urged not to lose sight of the voluntary nature of the instrument. The intent of the instrument is to promote sustainable forest management, the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the contribution of forests to internationally agreed development goals through cooperation at the national, regional and global levels, with due respect for the sovereign rights of countries over their natural resources and for their rights and obligations under other agreements.

5. Some of the elements included in the draft composite text of the non-legally binding instrument may also need to be addressed further in the multi-year programme of work, including: the selection of indicators for measuring progress in achieving the global objectives on forests and the contribution of forests to internationally agreed development goals; the elaboration of financial rules and procedures in the event that agreement is reached on the establishment of a global forest fund; the further development of clustering and synthesizing the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action and the resolutions of the Forum according to the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management; and the development of a format for reporting on progress towards the achievement of sustainable forest management and the global objectives on forests.

6. In further considering section XI of the draft text on the relationship to other instruments, member States may also wish to consider how to address linkages with forest-related non-legally binding instruments that are developed in other forums, with a view to strengthening complementarity, cooperation and coordination.

7. To understand better the presentation of the revised composite draft text, delegates are requested to bear the following in mind:

(a) Much of the text is in italics and is footnoted to help delegates identify those paragraphs containing language that has already been negotiated and agreed upon, with the footnotes providing the source of the language;

(b) In order to distinguish between the initial text in the composite draft text that was presented and reviewed by the ad hoc expert group and new text proposed by experts at the December 2006 meeting and subsequently by the Bureau, the new proposed text appears in bold, with the exception of the headings;

(c) Attributions have not been included in the annexed text but can be found in the composite draft text that appears as annex I of the report of the open-ended ad hoc expert group (E/CN.18/AC.1/2006/4);

(d) The order of paragraphs has been changed in the revised composite draft text annexed to this note. For ease of reference, the initial numbering of each paragraph, as contained in the composite draft text, is provided in square brackets at the end of each paragraph of the new text.

Annex

Non-legally binding international instrument/ understanding/code for sustainable forest management

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Preamble

Member/**[participating]**/**[subscribing]** States and regional economic integration organizations,[1]

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution *2000/35 of 18 October 2000 on the report of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, in which, inter alia, the Council decided on the main objectives and functions of the international arrangement on forests, established the United Nations Forum on Forests, and invited the executive heads of relevant organizations, institutions and instruments to form a Collaborative Partnership on Forests to support the work of the Forum and to enhance cooperation and coordination among participants, and Council resolution* 2006/49 of 28 July 2006 on the outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests;[2]

Reaffirming their commitment to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to the common but differentiated responsibilities of countries as set out in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;[3]

Recalling the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests; chapter 11 of Agenda 21; the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests Proposals for Action; resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests; the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development; and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document and relevant international legally binding instruments;[4]

Welcoming the accomplishments of the international arrangement on forests since its inception, and desiring to strengthen the international arrangement on forests, as set out in Economic and Social Council resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49, and to focus on the effective implementation of sustainable forest management at the national, subregional and regional levels;

Reaffirming that the United Nations Forum on Forests, with the assistance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, is the key intergovernmental mechanism to support, facilitate and coordinate the implementation of sustainable forest management at the national, regional and global levels, and stressing the importance of its appropriate strengthening;

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[1] Hereinafter, "member States" also refers to regional economic integration organizations.

[2] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, first preambular paragraph.

[3] Ibid, fourth preambular paragraph.

[4] Ibid., third, fifth and fourth preambular paragraphs.

Reaffirming also the importance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals within their time frame and their concern that some countries may not be in a position to do so in view of lack of adequate financial and technical resources;

Emphasizing that sustainable forest management contributes *significantly to sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,* taking full account of the linkages between the forest sector and other sectors;[5]

Recognizing the importance of the multiple economic, social and environmental benefits derived from goods and services provided by forests and by trees outside forests;[6]

Expressing concern about continued deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the slow rate of afforestation and forest cover recovery and reforestation, and the resulting adverse impact on economies, the environment, including biological diversity, and the livelihoods of at least a billion people and their cultural heritage, and emphasizing the need for more effective implementation of sustainable forest management at all levels to address these critical challenges;[7]

Expressing concern also that illegal logging and its associated trade in illegally harvested forest products have reached an alarming rate that is causing the loss of revenues, degradation of ecosystems, loss of biodiversity and aggravating poverty, particularly in developing countries;

Recognizing the importance of domestic forest law enforcement and governance to sustainable forest management, and the contribution in this regard of regional forest law enforcement and governance ministerial processes and related trade initiatives;

Reaffirming *the special needs and requirements of countries with fragile forest ecosystems, including those of low forest cover countries;*[8]

Recognizing the significant contribution of major groups and relevant stakeholders in the planning, development and implementation of national forest policies;

Recognizing also the important contribution of voluntary public-private partnerships and private sector initiatives at all levels to achieving effective implementation of sustainable forest management and supporting national strategies, plans and priorities related to forests;[9] and noting in this regard, inter alia, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and the Asia Forest Partnership;

Stressing *the need to strengthen political commitment and collective efforts at all levels, to include forests on national and international development agendas, to enhance national policy coordination and international cooperation and to promote intersectoral coordination at all levels for the effective implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests;*[10]

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[5] Ibid., seventh preambular paragraph.
[6] Ibid., sixth preambular paragraph.
[7] Ibid., eighth preambular paragraph.
[8] Ibid., ninth preambular paragraph.
[9] Ibid., eleventh preambular paragraph.
[10] Ibid., twelfth preambular paragraph.

Understanding that States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries in order to better address the problems of environmental degradation, and that trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustified discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade;

Emphasizing that effective implementation of sustainable forest management is critically dependent upon adequate resources, including financing, capacity development and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and recognizing in particular the need to mobilize increased financial resources, including from innovative sources, for developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition;[11]

Recognizing the need to strengthen the interaction between the United Nations Forum on Forests and relevant regional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes, with the participation of major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, and relevant stakeholders to facilitate enhanced cooperation and effective implementation of sustainable forest management, as well as to contribute to the work of the Forum;

Resolve **to respect and agree to** the following non-legally binding **international** instrument/understanding/code **on sustainable forest management** as a voluntary instrument to enhance international cooperation and to support national, regional and subregional policies and measures, within the International Arrangement on Forests and the mandate of the United Nations Forum on Forests, and request the General Assembly of the United Nations to adopt the present international instrument/understanding/code on sustainable forest management.

I. Principles and use of terms

1. ***Reaffirming and building upon*** **the Rio Forest Principles and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,**[12] **adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992, the member/participating/subscribing States resolve to respect the following principles:** [see previous paras. 1 and 2, merged]

(a) The present instrument/understanding/code is voluntary, non-legally binding and open to all States **and regional economic integration organizations and major groups as identified in Agenda 21;** [see previous para. 2 (a)]

(b) **Nothing in the present instrument prejudices the rights, jurisdictions and duties of member/participating/subscribing States under international law;** [see previous para. 2 (f) bis]

(c) Each **State** is responsible for the sustainable management of its forests and **for promoting good governance** and the enforcement of its forest laws, which are essential to achieving sustainable forest management; [see previous para. 2 (c)]

[11] Ibid., tenth preambular paragraph.

[12] Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests.

(d) **National forest policies should take into consideration in an integrated manner, the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual functions of forests;** [see previous para. 2 (g) bis]

(e) **Major groups as identified by Agenda 21, local communities** and other stakeholders can contribute to achieving sustainable forest management and, as such, should be involved in a transparent and participatory way in forest decision-making **processes** that affect them, **in accordance with national forest policies;** [see previous para. 2 (h)]

(f) **Sustainable forest management requires adequate financial resources to ensure its sustainability and competitiveness in the long term;** [see previous para. 2 (g) ter]

(g) International cooperation, **in particular financial support, technology transfer and capacity-building,** plays a crucial catalytic role in **supporting** the efforts of **all countries, particularly** developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to **achieve sustainable forest management;** [see previous para. 2 (e)]

2. For the purposes of the present **international** instrument/understanding/code: [see previous para. 3]

(a) "*International arrangement on forests*" means the arrangement consisting of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests established with the *objective of promoting the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end;*[13] [see previous para. 3 (a)]

(b) **"Forests" refers to all types of forests;** [see previous para. 7]

(c) "Forest resources": The natural resources found in a forest that include water, wildlife, foliage and forest floor plants,[14] as well as in wooded land and trees outside forests;[15] [see previous para. 3 (h)]

(d) "Forest goods and services": Wood and non-wood forest products obtained from forests, and environmental services (for example, conservation of soil, water, biological diversity; micro and macro climatic effects; nutrient cycling) and socio-cultural services other than those provided by the production of wood and non-wood products (for example, recreation and tourism; protection of cultural, aesthetic and scientific values) provided by forests;[16] [see previous para. 3 (i)]

(e) "Environmentally sound technologies" are not just individual technologies, but total systems which include know-how, procedures, goods and services, and equipment, as well as organizational and managerial procedures;[17] [see previous para. 3 (j)]

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[13] Based on resolution 2000/35, paras. 1-3.

[14] Marc Coté, ed., *Dictionnaire de la foresterie/Dictionary of Forestry/Diccionario de foresteria*, special edition for the XII World Forestry Congress, p. 451.

[15] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Forest Resources Assessment 2005.

[16] FAO.

[17] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and Corrigendum) resolution 1, annex II, para. 34.3.

(f) **"Major groups as identified by Agenda 21" include indigenous peoples, non-government organizations, small forest landowners, business and industry, workers and trade unions, the scientific and technological community, women, children and youth and local authorities.** [see previous para. 3 (k)]

II. Purpose

3. The purpose of the present **international** instrument/understanding/code is:

(a) **To strengthen political commitment and actions at the national, regional and global levels to implement effectively sustainable forest management and to achieve the global objectives on forests;** [see previous first part of para. 4 bis]

(b) **To enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability;** [see previous para. 4 ter (b)]

(c) To provide a **policy framework** for closer cooperation and collaboration among the many forest-related international and regional agreements, processes and organizations; [see previous (d) of para. 4 and second part of para. 4 bis]

(d) **To provide guidance for national action and international cooperation to those ends.** [see previous para. 4 ter (c)]

III. Global objectives on forests

4. **Member/subscribing/participating States reaffirm the following shared global objectives on forests and the intention to work globally, regionally and nationally to achieve progress towards their achievements by 2015:** [see previous para. 6 bis]

Global objective 1

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.[18]

Global objective 2

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.[18]

Global objective 3

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.[18]

[18] Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, para. 3.

Global objective 4

Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.[18]

IV. The seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management

5. **Sustainable forest management is the process of planning and implementing programmes and practices to provide for and to maintain the full range of social, economic and environmental functions of forests to meet the needs of present and future generations. The following seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management, drawn from the criteria identified by existing criteria and indicator processes, offer a coherent and useful reference framework for sustainable forest management and constitute an indicative global set of criteria for sustainable forest management:**

(a) **Extent of forest resources;**

(b) **Forest biological diversity;**

(c) **Forest health and vitality;**

(d) **Productive functions of forest resources;**

(e) **Protective functions of forest resources;**

(f) **Socio-economic functions of forests;**

(g) **Legal, policy and institutional framework.**

[see previous para. 10 ter]

6. **Member/participating/subscribing States and international organizations should:**

(a) **Take into account the seven thematic elements and the relevant Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action and the resolutions of the United Nations Forum on Forests in order to facilitate sustainable forest management;**

(b) **Facilitate efforts to increase greater stakeholder understanding of the intent of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action and United Nations Forum on Forests resolutions, including through clustering and further simplifying of the language as needed.** [see previous para. 10 quater with additions made by the Forum secretariat]

V. National policies and measures for implementing sustainable forest management and achieving the global objectives on forests

7. **While taking national sovereignty, legislation, practices and conditions, available resources and needs and priorities into account, in order to contribute to sustainable forest management and the above shared global objectives on forests:** [see previous para. 8 bis]

A. Policies and instruments, including national forest programmes or equivalent strategies

8. **Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:**

(a) To **continue to implement** the proposals for action adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the resolutions of the United Nations Forum on Forests, **in accordance with national circumstances**, in programmes, plans and strategies that aim at the achievement of sustainable forest management and the global objectives on forests; [see previous para. 8 (a)]

(b) To formulate, implement, publish and regularly update national programmes, **including national forest programmes or equivalents,** containing measures **and targets** to support and **enhance** sustainable forest management **and to achieve** the global objectives on forests; [see previous paras. 8 (b) and 8 (b) bis, which have been merged]

(c) **To *promote the use of management tools such as* *environmental impact assessments* *for projects with potential impacts on forests and life cycle assessments, subject to national legislation;*** *[see previous para. 8 (i)]*

(d) **To *develop and implement policies designed to promote sustainable production of wood and non-wood forest goods and services that reflect a wide range of values,* including social and cultural values, *and to ensure that the benefits of commercialization of wood and non-wood forest goods and services contribute to improved management of forests and are equitably distributed to the people who protect and provide them*;**[19]

(e) **To further develop and implement criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.**

B. Creating and promoting an enabling environment for sustainable forest management

9. **Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:**

(a) *To create an enabling environment for investment in sustainable forest management, including to* **support reforestation, afforestation and forest**

[19] IFF proposal for action, para. 122 (d).

restoration, *avoid the loss of forest cover and forest* ***degradation*** **and manage protected forest areas;**[20] [see previous para. 36 (h)]

(b) ***Recognizing the role of the private sector, where appropriate, in producing forest products and services,***[21] *to create an enabling environment for the involvement of and investment by local communities and other forest users in sustainable forest management*[22]*;* [see previous para. 36 (i)] ***This role may need to be supported within a framework of policies, incentives and regulations, such as secure land tenure and appropriate tax policies to help ensure the improved management of forests and sustained production of a wide range of goods and services;***[21]

(c) *To encourage the development* **and implementation** *of mechanisms,* **including** *systems for attributing proper value, as appropriate, to the* **costs and** *benefits derived from goods and services provided by forests and trees outside forests, consistent with relevant national legislation and policies.*[23] [see previous para. 36 (l)]

C. Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination

10. **Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:**

(a) To identify and implement appropriate measures at the national, regional and global levels *to enhance cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination*[24] among sectors affecting and affected by forest management, **inter alia, with a view to address the underlying causes of deforestation, effective forest conservation and to achieve the global objectives on forests;** [see previous para. 8 (d)]

(b) ***To integrate national forest programmes or other forest strategies into national strategies for sustainable development, relevant national action plans and, where appropriate, poverty reduction strategies;***[25] [see previous paras. 8 (c) ter and 8 (o) octiens, which have been merged]

(c) To strengthen *cooperation and partnerships at the regional level, as needed, to:*

i. *increase political, financial and technical support and capacity;*

ii. *develop regional strategies and plans for implementation;*

iii. *collaborate on implementation activities;*

iv. *exchange experiences and lessons learned;*[26]

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[20] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 5 (i).

[21] IFF proposal for action, 122 (b).

[22] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 5 (j).

[23] Ibid., para. 5 (l).

[24] Ibid., 2006/49, para. 7, chapeau.

[25] Ibid., para. 6 (c).

[26] Ibid., paras. 7 (c) (i)-(c) (iv).

v. *enhance forest-related wildlife law enforcement and governance;* [see previous para. 25 (b)]

(d) To promote bilateral, regional and international cooperation on forest law enforcement and governance to combat illegal logging and its associated trade, particularly on illegally harvested timber, non-timber products, wildlife and other forest products; [see previous para. 25 (c)]

(e) **Recognizing the important role of the private sector in achieving sustainable forest management**, to *establish or strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships and programmes*;[27] [see previous para. 25 (e)]

(f) To facilitate international support, especially through the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, for national actions to implement sustainable forest management and establish and maintain protected forest areas; [see previous para. 28]

(g) *As State members of the governing bodies of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to help ensure that the forest-related priorities and programmes of members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are integrated and mutually supportive, consistent with their mandates*;[28] [see previous para. 30]

(h) As *State members of the governing bodies of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests*, to help ensure that forest-related activities in their programmes of work are in line with the present international instrument/understanding/code.[28] [see previous para. 31]

D. Governance and forest law enforcement

11. **Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:**

(a) **To develop and implement strategies to strengthen forest law enforcement and governance in order to combat and eradicate illegal practices and corruption in the forest sector**; [see previous paras. 8 (o) bis and 8 (o) sexiens, which have been merged]

(b) To *strengthen the capacity of countries*, **in particular developing countries**, *to address illegal* **harvesting of forest products** *according to national legislation* **and associated trade** *through the promotion of forest law enforcement and governance at the national and subnational and regional and subregional levels;*[29] [see previous para. 40 (e)]

(c) **To strengthen governance, *within their respective legal frameworks,* in particular *to support land tenure policies that recognize and respect legitimate access and use, and property rights, in order to support sustainable forest management and investment, recognizing that institutionalizing tenure is a long-term and complex process which requires interim measures to address urgent needs, in particular of local and/or indigenous communities.***[30]

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[27] Ibid., para. 7 (d).

[28] Ibid., para. 24.

[29] Ibid., para. 6 (g).

[30] Intergovernmental Panel on Forests proposal for action, para. 115 (a).

E. Forest health and vitality and protected areas

12. **Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:**

(a) **To address threats to forest health and vitality, including threats from fire, pollution, pests and diseases**; [see previous para. 8 (h) bis]

(b) To **create**, develop **and expand** networks of protected areas; [see previous para. 8 (g)]

(c) ***To commit themselves to the protection, conservation and representativeness of all types of forests, consistent with national forest policies and programmes that recognize the linkage between forest conservation and sustainable development. That commitment may be achieved through a range of conservation mechanisms, reflecting varying national circumstances, applied within and outside of protected forest areas, and the complementary roles of protected forest areas and other sustainable forest management activities such as, for example, the production of wood and non-wood products and services, where forest conservation is promoted by other means;***[31]

(d) To ***develop methodologies for assessing the conditions and management effectiveness in existing protected forest areas and the surrounding landscape and in protected forest area networks, taking into account the various efforts under way in several countries to build further capacity to collect, organize, utilize and share information and experience, including indigenous and local knowledge, in order to create and manage protected forest areas.***[32]

F. Research

13. **Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:**

(a) **To strengthen the contribution of science and research in advancing sustainable forest management by incorporating scientific expertise into forest policies and programmes;** [see previous para. 13 bis]

(b) Also to *strengthen, within their capacities, linkages between science and policy by enhancing the capacities of research organizations, institutions and scientists*.[33] [see previous para. 14]

(c) **To enhance the research and scientific forest-related capacities of developing countries;** [see previous para. 14 bis]

(d) **To promote international technical and scientific cooperation, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, in the field of sustainable forest management, where necessary, through the appropriate international, regional and national institutions**; [see previous para. 13 ter]

(e) **To undertake collaborative research and development with potential technical and financial support from developed countries in the field of sustainable forest management;** [see previous para. 13 quinquiens]

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[31] Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposal for action, para. 85.

[32] Ibid., para. 88.

[33] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 22* and corrigendum (E/2004/42 and Corr.1), chap. I.B, resolution 4/1, para. 1.

(f) To *strengthen forestry education, research and development through global, regional and subregional networks, as well as through relevant organizations, institutions and centres of excellence in all regions of the world, particularly in developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition;* [34] [see previous para. 15]

(g) **To provide greater support to scientific and technological innovation as well as traditional forest-related knowledge for sustainable forest management, including innovations that help indigenous and local communities undertake sustainable forest management;** [see previous para. 13 quater]

(h) **To** support *the joint initiative by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the Center for International Forestry Research, and the International Center for Research in Agroforestry, in collaboration with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, on science and technology in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests by assessing available information and producing reports on forest-related issues of high concern to the* Forum and the implementation of this International Instrument/Understanding/Code;[35] [see previous para. 19]

(i) **To encourage, as members of the governing bodies of Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, the pursuit of joint initiatives on science and technology to strengthen the contribution of research and development in advancing sustainable forest management;** [see previous paras. 18 and 19 alt]

G. Public awareness and education

14. **Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:**

(a) To promote and encourage, **including through the media,** understanding of the importance of **sustainable forest management and its inclusion** in education programmes; [see previous para. 21]

(b) **To promote and encourage universal access to formal and informal education, extension and training programmes required for the implementation of sustainable forest management;** [see previous para. 22 bis]

(c) To *support national programmes of education* and public awareness *regarding sustainable forest management among* **all stakeholders, including major groups as identified in Agenda 21, in particular** *youth*, women, **local and forest-dependent communities** and **indigenous peoples;**[36] [see previous para. 24]

(d) ***To support education, training, extension systems and participatory research involving indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles in order to develop resource management approaches that will reduce the pressure on forests in fragile ecosystems.***[37]

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[34] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 7 (b).

[35] Ibid., para. 23.

[36] Language taken from *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 22* (E/2003/42), chap. I.C, resolution 3/2, para. 13.

[37] IPF, proposal for action, para. 46 (d).

H. Participation of major groups and other stakeholders

15. Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:

(a) To promote the active participation and empowerment of all major groups as identified by Agenda 21 and other stakeholders in a transparent and participatory manner in the development, implementation and evaluation of forest policies and programmes at all levels and in assessing progress made towards sustainable forest management and the achievement of the global objectives on forests, with a view to taking into account the broad range of social and cultural aspects of forests; [see previous para. 8 (k) bis, which has been revised and merged with paras. 8 (k) and 8 (l)]

(b) To promote the active participation of local and forest-dependent communities in the development and implementation of sustainable forest management policies and programmes that contribute to the development of culturally appropriate employment opportunities for local communities; [see previous para. 8 (l) bis, which has been revised]

(c) *To encourage* **forest owners and** *the private sector, including timber* **and non-timber forest product** *processors, exporters and importers, as well as civil society organizations, to develop, promote and implement voluntary instruments*, **approaches and measures, such as** forest certification schemes, in order *to adopt good business practices and to improve market transparency*;[38] [see previous para. 8 (m)]

(d) To encourage the development, promotion and implementation of voluntary measures, such as forest certification schemes, in order to demonstrate legal and sustainable production of forest goods and services and to enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits; [see previous para. 8 (m) bis]

(e) *To foster access, where appropriate, by households and communities to forest resources and markets*;[39] [see previous para. 8 (n)]

(f) To *support livelihoods and income diversification from forest products and services for small-scale forest owners, indigenous peoples, including forest-dependent local communities and poor people living in and around forest areas, consistent with sustainable forest management objectives*;[40] [see previous para. 36 (p)]

(g) To initiate or strengthen private-public partnerships to promote implementation of national forest programmes, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and good business practices. [see previous para. 8 (o) quinquiens]

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[38] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 6 (h).

[39] Ibid., para. 5 (m).

[40] Ibid., para. 5 (n).

VI. International trade in forest products

16. Member/**subscribing/participating** States **resolve:**

(a) **To encourage trade in forest products and investment in the forest sector by removing barriers to trade and by developing and implementing open, predictable and non-discriminatory international rules and practices for trade and investment and further promote market access for products from sustainably managed forests;** [see previous para. 11 (a) and (b) alt]

(b) To promote a mutually supportive relationship between trade and environment and to this end further facilitate legal trade in products from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests; [see previous para. 20 (c alt) (c alt merges c, d, e)]

(c) To take actions to prohibit trade in illegally harvested forest products; [see previous para. 20 (e alt)]

(d) To promote bilateral, regional and international cooperation in forest law enforcement and governance to combat the illegal **harvesting of, and associated trade in, timber, wildlife and non-timber products;** [see previous para. 20 (f)]

(e) To strengthen their ***capacities to address illegal forest-related practices according to national legislation and*** **associated** ***trade in forest products, through the promotion of forest law enforcement and governance at the subnational, national, subregional, and regional levels, as appropriate;***[29] [see previous para. 2 (f alt)]

(f) To ensure that *voluntary certification and labelling schemes are operated in accordance with relevant* **international obligations** so that *such schemes are not used as a form of* **arbitrary or unjustified discrimination or disguised restriction in international trade;**[41] [see previous para. 11 (g)]

(g) To promote valuation **and** accounting systems that internalize the full environmental, **economic,** social **and cultural** costs of forest products **and services** sourced from **all types of** forests; [see previous para. 11 (h)]

(h) To encourage, adopt or extend, consistent with international obligations, public procurement policies to the extent that they are supportive of international policies that favour legally sourced timber and share experiences of this with the private sector and with others; [see previous para. 11 (h) bis]

(i) To establish an appropriate international mechanism to objectively and transparently assess forest certification schemes and public procurement policies against standards that will be internationally agreed in order to promote mutual recognition of forest certification schemes and to facilitate trade in legally and sustainably produced forest goods and services; [see previous para. 11 (h) ter]

[41] IPF, proposal for action, para. 133 (a).

(j) To address **legal and** illegal forest-related practices and associated trade in forest products through **appropriate mechanisms, inter alia,** greater information-sharing and international cooperation **through the United Nations Forum on Forests**. [see previous para. 12]

VII. Means of implementation and international cooperation

A. Mobilizing resources for sustainable forest management

17. Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:

(a) *To make concerted efforts to secure sustained high-level political commitment to strengthen the means of implementation, including* **the provision of predictable and adequate** *financial resources, to support in particular* **the efforts of** *developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition to achieve the global objectives and to promote sustainable forest management by:*[42] [see previous para. 36]

(b) *To reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management;*[43] [see previous para. 36 (a)]

(c) *To mobilize and provide significant new and additional resources for sustainable forest management from private, public, domestic and international sources to and within developing countries, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries,* **low forest cover countries and** *small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition,* including through voluntary **and enhanced** contributions to *existing forest-related funds hosted by members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, including the National Forest Programme Facility, the Programme on Forests and the Bali Partnership Fund,*[44] **to support national forest programmes and national actions aimed at implementing sustainable forest management and at integrating forest issues in national development programmes and, where appropriate, poverty reduction strategies;** [see previous para. 36 (b)]

(d) To develop a mechanism of positive incentives to finance the efforts from developing countries to reduce the loss of forests, and increase the area of protected forests and planted forests and to implement sustainable forest management; [see previous para. 36 (p) bis]

(e) **To support the efforts of countries to develop and implement** economically, **culturally** and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the sustainable management of forests, **including the development of financial strategies.** [see previous para. 37]

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[42] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 5.

[43] Ibid., para. 5 (a).

[44] Ibid., paras. 5 (b), 5 (c) and 5 (d).

B. Transfer of environmentally sound technologies, capacity-building and technical assistance

18. Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:

(a) To *enhance the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries, to significantly increase the production of forest products from sustainably managed forests*;[45] [see previous para. 40 (a)]

(b) To develop and strengthen institutions to create transparent and effective markets for the products and services, including non-wood forest products and ecosystem services, of sustainably managed forests; [see previous para. 8 (o) septiens]

(c) To *strengthen mechanisms that enhance sharing and use of best practices in sustainable forest management*,[46] **including through voluntary codes of conduct;**[47] [see previous paras. 40 (d) and 8 (o) quater]

(d) To strengthen the capacity of countries to effectively combat wildlife poaching in forests and related trafficking in wildlife and wildlife parts, **as well as the traffic of forest-related biological resources,** through enhanced public awareness, education, law enforcement and information networks, **in accordance with national legislation and policies and international obligations;** [see previous para. 40 (f)]

(e) To enhance access to and transfer of **appropriate and** environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how **relevant to sustainable forest management, including development of value added products, on mutually agreed terms,** in accordance with the relevant provisions of Agenda 21, [see previous para. 40 (h)] **and to *increase productivity and efficiency in downstream processing activities and to support, where appropriate, community-based processing and marketing of wood and non-timber forest products*;**[48]

(f) To *provide greater support to scientific and technological innovations for sustainable forest management, including innovations that help* **indigenous and** *local communities undertake sustainable forest management*;[49] [see previous para. 40 (i)]

(g) To strengthen national and local capacity for the **development and** adaptation of technologies to national and local conditions, **including on wood for energy**; [see previous para. 40 (j)]

(h) To enhance the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for value added processing at source that provides optimum benefits for local communities and indigenous peoples; [see previous para. 40 (m) ter]

(i) To promote effective **preservation,** protection **and** use and related benefit-sharing of traditional **forest-related** knowledge **and practices** in sustainable forest management, **according to national legislation and, as applicable, in**

[45] Ibid., para. 6 (b).
[46] Ibid., para. 6 (f).
[47] Addressed in IPF, proposal for action, paras. 69 (a) and 128 (c).
[48] Ibid., para. 131 (a).
[49] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 6 (a).

accordance with the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity; [see previous para. 40 (l)]

(j) **To promote the transfer and use of information and communication technologies, including the development of freeware-based technology, to support the implementation of sustainable forest management and the achievement of the global objectives on forests;** [see previous para. 40 (m) bis]

(k) To promote the provision of technical assistance to other member/**participating/subscribing** States, especially those that are developing countries **and** countries with economies in transition, either bilaterally or through the appropriate international organizations, with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the present international instrument/understanding/code. [see previous para. 41]

International cooperation in capacity-building, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and technical assistance

19. *International* technical and scientific *cooperation, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation*[50] in the field of sustainable forest management, where necessary, should be promoted through the appropriate international, regional and national institutions **and processes**; [see previous para. 40 (k)]

20. The *members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in particular the World Bank, as host of the Programme on Forests, are invited to maintain and enhance support to analytical work and knowledge-generation and to develop new tools and approaches to key issues within the forest sector, in particular those relevant to the global objectives on forests, in order to support developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition,* **to mobilize and access** *additional national and international funding;*[51] [see previous para. 36 (e)]

21. *The Global Environment Facility Council is invited to fully consider the potential for strengthened Global Environment Facility support for sustainable forest management, including the option to establish a separate operational programme on forests,* **with sufficient additional funds,** *without prejudicing other operational programmes.*[52] [see previous para. 36 (f)]

International cooperation in research

22. *The donor community, international organizations and financial institutions are called upon to enhance the capacity of research organizations in developing countries in generating and accessing forest-related data and information, including through information and communication technologies infrastructure, strengthening the skills of researchers and supporting networking activities.*[53] [see previous para. 16]

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[50] Ibid., para. 6 (d).

[51] Ibid., para. 5 (f).

[52] Ibid., para. 5 (g).

[53] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 22* and corrigendum (E/2004/22 and Corr.1), chap. I.B, resolution 4/1, para. 4.

23. *International and regional organizations, institutions and processes, with the involvement of various stakeholders, are encouraged to promote and support integrated and interdisciplinary research on forest-related issues of importance at the national and global levels, both within and between national and international research organizations and institutions, to enhance sustainable forest management and to promote conservation and sustainable use of forest resources.*[54] [see previous para. 17]

24. *The Collaborative Partnership on Forests is invited to provide, if requested by the United Nations Forum on Forests, an assessment of scientific knowledge-based actions needed to achieve sustainable forest management and the global objectives at all levels.*[55] [see previous para. 18]

25. **Member/participating/subscribing States and** member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, financial institutions and relevant regional and international organizations should **resolve to** strengthen follow-up to the implementation of resolution 4/1 on forest-related scientific knowledge, adopted by the Forum at its fourth session. [see previous para. 20]

International cooperation in public awareness and education

26. Member/participating/subscribing States **resolve to** cooperate, as appropriate, with other member States and international organizations **and major groups as identified in Agenda 21** in developing educational and public awareness programmes with respect to the sustainable management of forests. [see previous para. 23]

C. Major groups

27. Countries, international and regional processes and organizations shall involve the major groups as identified in Agenda 21 at all levels in the implementation of the present instrument. [see previous para. 35 bis]

VIII. Financing mechanisms

28. Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:

(a) Option 1: To establish a global financing mechanism/global forest fund/forest development fund **applicable to all types of forests** with the aim of providing **dedicated and sufficient** financial resources for achieving **sustainable forest management and** the **global** objectives of the present **international** instrument/understanding/code, **in particular for developing countries;** [see previous para. 36 (c)]

(b) Option 2: To assess and review the current funding mechanisms as well as, if appropriate, inter alia, the possibility of having a voluntary global funding

[54] Ibid., para. 6.

[55] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 22 (e).

mechanism as a contribution towards achieving the global objectives and implementing sustainable forest management;[56] [see previous para. 36 (d)]

(c) *To further develop* **and implement** *innovative financial mechanisms,* **including debt reduction mechanisms,** *for generating revenue to support sustainable forest management*;[57] [see previous para. 36 (k)]

(d) To create financial mechanisms to support forestry-related rural development for the benefit of forest dependent local communities, especially in developing countries; [see previous para. 36 (m) bis]

(e) **In order to contribute to efforts addressing climate change,** to develop and implement clean development mechanism strategies **and proposals for reducing transaction costs** for **the participation of developing countries** in market-based mechanisms of carbon sequestration promoting afforestation and reforestation, **as well as mechanisms to reduce deforestation, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition**; [see previous para. 36 (n), first part]

(e) To encourage *the governing bodies of* **the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other** *international financial institutions, development agencies and regional banks to consider ways to generate and facilitate access to resources, and to respond to requests from developing countries to finance forest-related activities,* **especially in the implementation of sustainable forest management**;[58] [see previous para. 36 (g)]

(g) To request the World Bank, regional development banks and other international and bilateral financial institutions to allocate funds for afforestation/reforestation projects in the context of addressing climate change; [see previous para. 36 (n), second part]

IX. Facilitative process

(**Note**: If a financial mechanism or facility is established for the instrument, the facilitative process could be considered in the development of the financial rules and procedures)

29. A Committee of experts is hereby established to promote and facilitate the implementation of the present international instrument/understanding/code, by, inter alia, giving advice and assistance to the United Nations Forum on Forests, upon its request, regarding international and regional implementation, and to any subscribing State, upon its request, regarding national implementation of the present international instrument/understanding/code. [see previous para. 49]

30. The Committee will conduct its work in a constructive and timely manner, and be non-judicial. [see previous para. 50]

31. The Committee will consist of [*x*] members nominated by member States and elected by the United Nations Forum on Forests on the basis of [*y*] from each of the

[56] Ibid., para. 5 (e).
[57] Ibid., para. 5 (k).
[58] Ibid., para. 5 (h).

five regional groups of the United Nations **and [z] focal points from the major groups as identified in Agenda 21.** [see previous para. 51]

32. Members of the Committee will have recognized competence in the field of sustainable forest management or other relevant fields of the present international instrument/understanding/code, including scientific, technical or legal expertise, and they will serve as experts in their individual capacity. [see previous para. 52]

33. Members will be elected for a period of [z] years. Members will not serve for more than two consecutive terms. [see previous para. 53]

34. The Committee may draw upon outside expertise as it deems necessary. [see previous para. 54]

35. The Committee will be serviced by the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and will hold sessions as necessary and, whenever possible, in conjunction with sessions of the Forum. [see previous para. 55]

36. The Committee will report to each session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on all aspects of its work for consideration and appropriate action by the Forum. [see previous para. 56]

37. The Committee will, upon a request received in accordance with paragraph 21, consider questions regarding the implementation of the present international instrument/understanding/code in consultation with the subscribing State concerned and in the light of the nature of the question, and may: [see previous para. 57]

(a) Clarify and resolve questions of implementation;

(b) Provide advice to the subscribing State concerned, including on the access to technical and financial resources for the resolution of those difficulties;

(c) Assist, as appropriate, the subscribing State concerned to further develop national forest programmes, policies and strategies with a view to the implementation of the present international instrument/understanding/code within an adequate time frame;

(d) Invite the subscribing State concerned to submit progress reports to the Committee on the efforts it is making to implement the provisions of the present international instrument/understanding/code.

X. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

38. Member **States** will monitor and assess forest conditions and *progress towards sustainable forest management and in implementing national measures, policies, actions or specific objectives towards achieving the global objectives on forests, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management*[59] **and utilizing as much as possible indicators from existing criteria and indicators processes.** [see previous paras. 42 and 43 alt]

39. Member States *will submit,* **on a voluntary basis and taking into account the availability of resources biannually,** *national reports to the United Nations Forum on Forests, on progress in implementing national measures, policies, actions or*

[59] Ibid., para. 19.

specific objectives towards achieving the global objectives on forests in support of the present international instrument/understanding/code, *taking into consideration, as appropriate, the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management*, in one of the official languages of the United Nations.[59] [see previous para. 44 bis]

40. *The Collaborative Partnership on Forests is also invited to continue to report in a consolidated manner to the United Nations Forum on Forests on its initiatives and activities, including progress on the means of implementation, in support of the work of the Forum* and the implementation of the present international instrument/understanding/code.[60] Comparable methodologies should be utilized, taking into account reports required by other multilateral environmental agreements. [see previous para. 44 ter]

41. **The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests is requested to support the efforts of developing countries to enhance their national capacities for monitoring, assessment and reporting as set out in section V.** [see previous para. 44 quater]

42. The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests will prepare, on the basis of the national reports and any other relevant information, **periodic** synthesis reports including recommendations to the Forum on decisions to enhance the implementation of the present international instrument/understanding/code. Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are invited to participate in the preparation of the synthesis reports, **taking into account the multi-year programme of work**. [see previous para. 45]

43. *The members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests, are invited to further harmonize processes for voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting* **of the implementation of the present instrument,** *taking into account the seven thematic elements for sustainable forest management, with a view to reducing the reporting burden on countries.*[61] [see previous para. 46]

Information exchange

44. Member States will facilitate the exchange of information on sustainable forest management, including exchange of the results of technical, scientific and socio-economic research, as well as information on training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge and indigenous and traditional **forest-related** knowledge. [see previous para. 58]

XI. Relationship to other instruments

45. Taking into account the work undertaken by *existing international instruments relevant to forests,*[62] *interaction should be strengthened with those instruments in*

[60] Ibid., para. 21.
[61] Ibid., para. 20.
[62] Ibid., fifth preambular paragraph.

order to facilitate enhanced cooperation, **synergies** *and effective implementation of sustainable forest management.*[63] [see previous para. 9]

46. *Relevant multilateral environmental agreements, instruments, processes and United Nations bodies are invited to improve collaboration and cooperation with the international arrangement on forests* and this non-legally binding **international** instrument/understanding/code.[64] [see previous para. 26]

47. The United Nations Forum on Forests will establish and maintain cooperation with relevant international organizations, institutions, treaty bodies and major groups on matters covered by the present international instrument/understanding/code in a mutually supportive manner. [see previous para. 27]

A. Regional processes and organizations

48. F*orest-related regional and subregional bodies, mechanisms and processes, in coordination with the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat, as appropriate, are invited to strengthen collaboration and to provide input to the work of the Forum* in the implementation of the present **international** instrument/understanding/code *by*:[65] [see previous para. 35]

(a) Raising *awareness of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests* and the present **international** instrument/understanding/code *at the regional and subregional levels*;[66]

(b) Addressing *topics identified in the multi-year programme of work, with a view to sharing with the United Nations Forum on Forests regional and subregional perspectives on these topics*;[67]

(c) *Encouraging participation of interested members of the United Nations Forum on Forests, especially from within the region, as well as members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, relevant regional organizations and major groups.*[68]

B. International processes and organizations

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests

49. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests is invited to support the work of the Forum and the present non-legally binding instrument/understanding/code. To that end, *the Forum will provide guidance to the Partnership.*[69] [see previous para. 29]

50. The United Nations Forum on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests will review the programmes of work of the members of the Collaborative

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[63] Ibid., para. 2 (c), and Ministerial Declaration and message from the United Nations Forum on Forests to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, para. 12.

[64] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 9.

[65] Ibid., para. 11.

[66] Ibid., para. 11 (a).

[67] Ibid., para. 11 (b).

[68] Ibid., para. 11 (c).

[69] Ibid., preambular para. 14 and para. 22 chapeau.

Partnership in order to identify opportunities for synergies as well as duplications and gaps with the international instrument/understanding/code, with a view to enhancing cooperation between the members of the Partnership, in particular by developing joint action plans. [see previous para. 32]

51. Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are invited to: [see previous para. 33]

(a) *Strengthen collaboration and coordination on forest issues in order to foster progress towards sustainable forest management at the global, regional and national levels*;[70]

(b) *Further harmonize processes for voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting, taking into account the seven thematic elements for sustainable forest management, with a view to reducing the reporting burden on countries*;[61]

(c) *Translate relevant policy recommendations of the United Nations Forum on Forests* on the implementation of the present **international** instrument/ understanding/code *into their work programmes*.[71]

52. Member/**participating/subscribing** States and stakeholders *interested in the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are urged to support its joint initiatives by making voluntary financial contributions to the respective lead organizations of the Partnership, as appropriate*.[72] [see previous para. 34]

XII. Institutional and working modalities

A. Governing body of the instrument

53. The United Nations Forum on Forests will serve as the governing body of the present **international** instrument/understanding/code. [see previous para. 60]

54. The functions of the United Nations Forum on Forests will be to monitor and promote the full implementation of the present international instrument/ understanding/code, keeping in view its purpose **and the Global Objectives on Forests**, inter alia, by adopting plans and programmes for the implementation of the present international instrument/understanding/code. [see previous para. 61]

B. Secretariat of the instrument

55. The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests will serve as the secretariat of the present **international** instrument/understanding/code. [see previous para. 72]

56. For the purposes of the present **international** instrument/understanding/code, the secretariat of the Forum will perform functions, including: [see previous para. 73]

(a) To arrange for and service sessions of the Forum and of any subsidiary body that may be established;

[70] Ibid., para. 22 (a).
[71] Ibid., para. 22 (c).
[72] Ibid., para. 25.

(b) To assist the Forum in carrying out those functions, including the performance of specific tasks that the Forum may decide to assign to it;

(c) To report on its activities to the Forum with respect to the present international instrument/understanding/code;

(d) To fulfil any other duties that may be required by the Forum. [see previous para. 73 (c) bis]

57. The secretariat will collaborate with relevant international organizations, institutions and treaty bodies, in particular with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and major groups **as identified in Agenda 21** in **promoting the achievement of** the objectives of the present international instrument/ understanding/code. [see previous para. 74]

C. Subsidiary bodies

58. The United Nations Forum **on Forests** may establish, as necessary, subsidiary or advisory bodies for supporting the implementation of the instrument. That could include, inter alia, ad hoc expert groups, ad hoc working groups, scientific and/or technical advisory bodies and other intersessional bodies. [see previous para. 66]

D. Meetings

59. The United Nations Forum on Forests will assess progress in the implementation of the **international** instrument/understanding/code, including a review of national reports, the mobilization of resources, support provided by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and cooperation with other forest-related processes. The Forum will consider and decide upon any additional actions required for the implementation of the instrument/understanding/code and the achievement of the global objectives on forests. [see previous para. 62]

60. In addressing the implementation of the present **international** instrument/understanding/code, the *United Nations Forum on Forests will consider inputs from forest-related regional and subregional bodies, mechanisms and processes and from country-led initiatives, as well as from major groups.*[73] [see previous para. 63]

61. **For** alternate years, regional and subregional meetings should be held to discuss practical steps for the implementation of the present instrument/ understanding/code at the national and regional levels. Such meetings should be conducted in collaboration with regional or subregional organizations, mandated by their member States and acknowledged by the United Nations Forum on Forests. Meetings should be prepared jointly by the secretariat of the Forum and the designated organizations. [see previous para. 64]

62. *The* **secretariat of the** *United Nations Forum on Forests should continue to support participants from developing countries, with priority to the least developed*

[73] Ibid., para. 15.

countries, as well as from countries with economies in transition, in accordance with General Assembly decision 58/554.[74] [see previous para. 65]

63. The **secretariat of the** United Nations Forum on Forests should continue to encourage and facilitate participation of *major groups* **as identified in Agenda 21** *and other* **relevant** *forest stakeholders in the meetings and work of the Forum* **in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations with balanced geographic representation.**[75] [see previous para. 68]

E. Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests

64. Bearing in mind the importance of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests to supporting participants from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the meetings of the Forum as well as the work of the Forum secretariat, *donor Governments, financial institutions and other organizations are called upon to make voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund; and other countries in the position to do so, as well as other interested parties are urged to contribute to the Trust Fund.*[76] [see previous para. 76]

F. Review of progress achieved: 2015

65. **Member/participating/subscribing States will review the effectiveness of the present international instrument/understanding/code no later than 2015; in the context of the overall review of the international arrangement on forests and on that basis** *a full range of options will be considered, including, inter alia, a legally binding instrument on all types of forests, strengthening the current arrangement, continuation of the current arrangement and other options.* [see previous para. 77 ter]

XIII. Adoption/subscription

66. The member States of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its seventh session **adopt** the present international instrument/understanding/code on the sustainable management of all types of forests. [Note: Several feel that the contents of this paragraph could be incorporated into a resolution of the United Nations Forum on Forests rather than in the instrument itself; others also favour its adoption by the General Assembly.] [see previous para. 78]

67. Member States decide that the **international** instrument/understanding/code will be open for subscription by States and regional economic integration organizations by submitting a diplomatic note to the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests. That procedure applies mutatis mutandis to the withdrawal of States and regional economic integration organizations from the present instrument/understanding/code. The secretariat of the Forum should disseminate the status of States' subscription to the instrument/understanding/code

[74] Ibid., para. 16.
[75] Ibid., para. 12.
[76] Ibid., para. 18.

to all member States of the Forum on a periodic basis. [see previous para. 79]

68. The present international instrument/understanding/code becomes operational on [*day of inauguration*]. [see previous para. 80]

XIV. Amendments

69. **Member/participating/subscribing States** may decide on amendments/ modifications to the present international instrument/understanding/code subject to adoption by the General Assembly. [see previous para. 81]

XV. Adoption of annexes and supplementary instruments

70. **Member/participating/subscribing States** may decide on annexes and supplementary instruments to the present **international** instrument/understanding/ code subject to adoption by the General Assembly. [see previous para. 82]

XVI. Authentic texts

71. The original of the present international instrument/understanding/code, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, will be deposited with the Secretariat. [see previous para. 83]